



SENATOR
BILL HARDIMAN

E-Hardiman Herald



*Chair, Families & Human
Services Committee
Appropriations Committee:
Chair, Family Independence
Agency, Commerce Labor
& Economic Development,
Capitol Outlay,
Higher Education*

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Senate passes Red-Tape Reduction Package

A comprehensive package of bills to implement a processing deadline on nearly every permit or license issued to businesses in the state of Michigan passed the Senate on June 17. The Red-Tape Reduction Package is part the Republican JOBS Action Plan for revitalizing the state's economy. The plan specifically targets ways to attract new businesses, save existing jobs and promote a healthier business climate in the state. The bills would affect licenses for new businesses as well as operational permits for current job providers. The change is similar to provisions in the recently signed groundwater and surface-water discharge permit laws. The bills were passed by the Senate unanimously.

New law gives residents privacy from new technology

Michigan residents will now have their privacy protected from new electronic technology, including cell phones and digital cameras, through a bill recently signed into law. Senate Bill 918, now Public Act 155, creates specific prohibitions and criminal penalties for acts of electronic voyeurism. Those acts include capturing or transmitting a visual image of a person undressed or wearing only undergarments. Examples of places where one might normally have a reasonable expectation of privacy include private or public restrooms, showers, tanning beds and locker rooms. The legislation also prohibits and creates stronger penalties for distributing such images, and provides stronger penalties for repeat offenders. The new law goes into effect immediately.

Legislature approves Legal Birth Definition Act

Recently the Michigan Legislature approved the citizen-initiated Legal Birth Definition Act. The act defines the moment at which a person is considered "born" and therefore eligible for the full protection of the law. The language of the act was based on legislation that was vetoed by the governor in October. A citizens' initiative was launched in January to put the measure back before the Legislature in a way that would prevent the governor from vetoing it.

“The approval of the Legal Birth Definition Act is a victory for those who collected hundreds of thousands of signatures to enable the Michigan Legislature to override the governor’s veto,” Hardiman said.

“If it weren’t for the petition drive, the veto of the ban on this gruesome act would have been final,” Hardiman said. “Today we have acted to protect Michigan most vulnerable.”

In *Roe v. Wade* and the legal decisions that followed it, the U.S. Supreme Court established that a fully born child is afforded full constitutional rights, and that a child within his or her mother is not a legally-protected person. However, no court has ever sought to define the term “unborn” or bar states from defining “born.” The initiative clarifies this ambiguity, establishing a clear line between when pregnancy ends and birth begins.

My belief in the sanctity of life is reflected in the words of the Declaration of Independence: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” “I voted for the Initiative because it upholds this principle,” Hardiman said.

Four CORE bills passed by Senate

The state Senate passed four bills designed to revitalize downtowns and commerce centers across Michigan and create job opportunities. The Creating Opportunities for Renewed Economies - CORE - is geared toward expanding and coordinating many state economic programs to operate more effectively, as well as provide incentives for growth in cities and villages. The package is designed to help communities revitalize their central business and residential districts, initiate new growth and create job opportunities.

Senator Hardiman sponsored Senate Bill 1202 allowing municipalities to designate a historical neighborhood tax increment authority. SB 1202 would hopefully help communities eliminate the causes of deterioration, and promote residential and economic growth within a historic district. Senate Bill 1202 and the other bills will now go to the House of Representatives for consideration.

Private labs could work on state contracts

The approximate 90 commercial labs that do environmental testing would have more chances to work on state contracts resulting in more job opportunities under legislation passed Wednesday in the Senate. The legislation would create a voluntary lab data quality recognition program for all those labs who wish to be considered eligible for state lab work contracts. Under Senate Bill 1133, labs would be able to submit their data to be compared against uniform performance standards before bidding on state jobs. It is estimated this legislation will mean a potential increase in private lab work of over \$2 million annually. SB 1133 is tied to SB 1135 which creates a special advisory council to study the new lab quality data recognition program and review its effectiveness and cost efficiency.

Stiffer penalties for forged state IDs become law

Criminals who forge state ID cards will now be subject to the same penalties as those who forge drivers’ licenses under legislation signed into law this week. Previously, penalties for forging drivers’ licenses generally were more severe than for state ID cards. Public Acts 149 and 150 increase the penalties for forging state ID cards to match those for forging drivers’ licenses and

eliminate inconsistencies between these nearly identical crimes. The new laws will take effect immediately.

Chemical spill protection measures signed into law

A person responsible for spilling harmful materials into surface or groundwater will be required to immediately report the spill to local authorities under legislation signed into law this week. Senate Bill 977 and House Bill 5586 mandate that local 911 dispatchers be the first party notified in the event of a chemical spill. Dispatchers will then follow a plan developed by the county emergency management coordinator to get the information to water plants and other local agencies in a prompt manner. The legislation also requires the responsible party to submit a written explanation of the cause of the spill and what materials were released to the state Department of Environmental Quality and local health departments affected by the spill. In addition, penalties including up to \$2,500 for failure to report a spill, and up to \$500 for failing to submit a written report of the spill may be levied.

Contact Information

The Hardiman Herald by Senator Bill Hardiman is designed to provide residents and organizations with a timely update of his activity in Lansing. If you have any questions or do not wish to receive this e-mail, please contact Senator Hardiman's office.

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